

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 EB-11 FEA-02 TRSE-00 INT-08 AID-20

ACDA-19 DRC-01 /164 W

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R 140903Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2642

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 7881

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US US SA

SUBJ: REACTION TO US-SAUDI AGREEMENT

REFS: (A) STATE 121829 (B) STATE 121838

1. EMBOFF PASSED TEXT OF SAUDI-US ANNOUNCEMENT FOR JOINT COOPERATION (REF A) TO FONOFF MIDDLE EAST DIVISION (JIBIKI) AND MADE ORAL PRESENTATION OF POINTS MADE IN REF B (ASST. SEC. ATHERTON PRESS BACKGROUNDER). JIBIKI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION, BUT SAID THAT PENDING STUDY OF TEXT OF AGREEMENT, FONOFF COULD NOT GIVE DETAILED REACTION TO THIS DEVELOPMENT. JIBIKI ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IN PRINCIPLE GOJ WELCOMED STRENGTHENED US RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND OTHER MIDEAST STATES AND DID NOT VIEW SUCH DEVELOPMENT AS IN CONFLICT WITH JAPANESE INTERESTS IN REGION. JIBIKI WONDERED ALOUD ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF SECRET AGREEMENT ON MILITARY SUPPLIES AND CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS ANNOUNCEMENT AND SAUDI MOVE TO TAKE 60 PERCENT SHARE OF ARAMCO.

2. IN OTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFFS, SOME FONOFF OFFICIALS HAVE QUESTIONED WHETHER THIS UNILATERAL APPROACH BY US TO SAUDI ARABIA IS CONSISTENT WITH USG EMPHASIS ON MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY. NEVERTHELESS THESE OFFICIALS RECOGNIZE THAT US-SAUDI AGREEMENT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO STABILITY

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IN REGION AND THEREFORE IS BENEFICIAL TO JAPANESE INTERESTS,

PARTICULARLY IF IT CONTRIBUTES TO LOWERING OF PRICE OF OIL.

3. THERE HAS BEEN VERY LITTLE PRESS COVERAGE AND NO
EDITORIAL COMMENT ON AGREEMENT.
SHOESMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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